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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

THE QUESTION OF ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST ORGANIZED TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Letter dated 8 August 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request that a new item, entitled "The question of elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime" be included in the agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

I enclose a letter dated 5 August 1996 from Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner, Secretary of State, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Poland, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(Signed) Zbigniew MATUSZEWSKI
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 5 August 1996 from the Secretary of State, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Poland I have the honour, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly the following supplementary item: "The question of elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime".

An explanatory memorandum is attached to this letter.

Warsaw, 5 August 1996

H.E. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General
of the United Nations

ATTACHMENT

Explanatory memorandum

The proposed elaboration and eventual adoption of the international convention against transnational crime was already at the centre of debate during the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Havana in 1990. During the Congress the pressing need for more and better international cooperation in combating organized crime was recognized by all participants. Four years later the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/159 of 23 December 1994, approved unanimously the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, adopted at the World Ministerial Conference held at Naples, in November 1994.

The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo in 1995, also underlined the necessity of the international community to respond to organized crime and to improve the mechanisms of regional and multilateral cooperation to combat it.

Further exploration of the feasibility of elaborating additional international instruments, including a convention on combating organized transnational crime, is in our opinion one of the most important and urgent measures called for in United Nations activities.

The Polish Government therefore strongly believes that the inclusion of this new item in the agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly will be in accordance with current approaches to devising a useful model for cooperation among States Members of the United Nations, which could be utilized by all countries regardless of the sophistication of their respective criminal justice systems. In accordance with paragraph 18 of annex V to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, it is suggested that the item in question be referred to the Third Committee or to the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly.

In the light of growing crime worldwide, the opening of the discussion during the coming session of the General Assembly on the elaboration of the convention would contribute greatly to the global struggle against the highly dangerous phenomenon of organized transnational crime and by the same token would permit Member States to concentrate their efforts on the conclusion of this important international instrument.

The inclusion of the said item in the agenda of the General Assembly will also allow the Organization to underscore its leading role in crime prevention all over the world.